

Appl. No. 09/805,333

Amd. Dated October 20, 2004

Reply to Final Office Action of August 26, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for generating a random value, said method comprising:

monitoring a signal obtained from a communication channel, said communication channel being part of a communication network, said signal being arranged to include data, said signal further including additive noise, wherein said communication network is arranged to implement access to the Internet;

sampling said signal to generate a random value; and
storing said random value.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:
using said random value as input to a cryptographic key generation process.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein sampling comprises:
sampling at times determined by output of a linear feedback shift register.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein monitoring comprises
monitoring a digital signal represented by multiple bits.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4 further comprising:
reordering said multiple bits prior to sampling.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 4 wherein said digital
signal comprises output of an analog to digital converter.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Apparatus for generating a random value, said
apparatus comprising:

Appl. No. 09/805,333

Amended Dated October 20, 2004

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means for monitoring a signal obtained from a communication channel of a communication network, said signal being arranged to include data, said signal further including additive noise, wherein the communication network is arranged to implement access to the Internet;

means for sampling said signal to generate a random value; and

means for storing said random value.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:

means for using said random value as input to a cryptographic key generation process.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said sampling means comprises:

means for sampling at times determined by output of a linear feedback shift register.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said means for monitoring comprises means for monitoring a digital signal represented by multiple bits.

Claim 11 (original): The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:

means for reordering said multiple bits prior to sampling.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said digital signal comprises output of a to analog to digital converter.

Claim 13 (currently amended): Apparatus for generating a random value, said apparatus comprising:

a monitoring circuit that monitors a signal derived from a communication channel output of a communication network, the signal being arranged to include data, wherein the communication network is arranged to implement access to the Internet; and

Appl. No. 09/805,333

Amnd. Dated October 20, 2004

Reply to Final Office Action of August 26, 2004

a register that stores a random value generated from said signal.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:
a sampler that samples said signal to generate said random value.

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:
a linear feedback shift register that controls sampling times of said samples.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said signal comprises a
digital signal.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said digital signal is
represented by multiple bits and further comprising:
a bit reordering stage that reorders said multiple bits to generate said random
value.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said digital signal is
obtained from output of an analog to digital converter.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the signal
further includes a modulation signal, and the additive noise is Additive White Gaussian Noise.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein said communication
network is one of a wireless communication network, a data over cable network, and a DSL
network.